

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00082 090800Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA 01 L-03 H-03 SY-10

IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /084 W

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R 090718Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8161

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USUN NEW YORK 590

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0082

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC PINS YO SY (BATES, JOHNATHAN)

SUBJ: BATES CASE

REF : (A) STATE 151375; (B) BELGRADE 5336

1. POLITICAL CONSELOR RAISED BATES CASE AGAIN DURING JAN 8
CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARIAT NORTH AMERICAN DEPT ACTING CHIEF
GRUBOR, WHO WITH SOME EMBARRASSMENT OUTLINED THE FOLLOWING TALE.

2. ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO GRUBOR, IN CONVERSATION WITH COLLEAGUES
FROM FOREIGN SECRETARIAT NEAR EAST DEPT,*HAD MENTIONED BATES
CASE AND, TO HIS SURPRISE, HAD BEEN ASKED WHAT HE HAD TO DO
WITH IT. IT SEEMS NEAR EAST DEPT HAD LONG BEEN AWARE OF CASE,
AND ON EXAMINATION IT TURNED OUT GRUBOR'S NOVEMBER SUBMISSION
OF ALVAREZ LETTER TO TITO'S OFFICE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO NEAR EAST
DEPARTMENT. THE MAN HANDLING THE CASE THERE HOWEVER LEFT ON
TRANSFER TO DAMASCUS BEFORE ALERTING GRUBOR.

3. GRUBOR THEN READ FROM THE FILE TO DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. THE ELDER BATES CONTACTED YUGOSLAV UN
AMBASSADOR IN JUNE OF 1972 (NOT IN 1973 AS INDICATED REF A),
AND HANDED OVER A LETTER TO TITO SAYING HIS SON WAS MISSING AND
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 00082 090800Z

THOUGHT TO BE IN SYRIA, MENTIONING HIS SPANISH CIVIL WAR

CONNECTIONS, FRIENDSHIP WITH BEBLER, AND THAT HE HAD MET TITO, AND ASKING THAT TITO INTERVENE TO SEE IF HIS SON COULD BE LOCATED.

4. BASED ON THIS LETTER, IN AUGUST 1972 THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ASKED YUGOSLAV EMBASSY DAMASCUS TO LOOK INTO CASE, DRAWING ATTENTION OF SYRIANS TO ELDER BATES' BACKGROUND, AND SAYING THAT TITO HAD TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE MATTER. IN A MID-AUGUST REPLY DAMASCUS EMBASSY SAID CHARGE HAD TAKEN CASE UP AS INSTRUCTED WITH AN ASST MINISTER OF INTERIOR, WHO PROMISED TO CHECK WHETHER BATES IN SYRIA. YUGOSLAV UN MISSION WAS INFORMED OF THIS ACTION, BUT FILE DID NOT REVEAL WHETHER BATES WAS CONTACTED.

5. AT THE END OF AUGUST 1972 THE SAME SYRIAN ASST MINISTER SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE BATES BUT THIS WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY ELDER BATES INFORMING UN MISSION THAT HE HAD LEARNED THROUGH OTHER MEANS HIS SON WAS IN PRISON AT MEXXEH ON ESPIONAGE CHARGE. ON THIS OCCASION ELDER BATES SAID HE HAD ASKED ITALIANS TO INTERVENE TO GET SON SIMPLY EXPELLED FROM SYRIA, AND ASKED YUGOSLAV SUPPORT OF THIS REPRESENTATION. THIS REQUEST WAS PASSED VIA THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT TO THE YUGOSLAV DAMASCUS EMBASSY, THE LAST ACTION SHOWN IS GRUBOR'S FILE.

6. ASKED WHERE THE CASE NOW STANDS FROM THE YUGOSLAV POINT OF VIEW, GRUBOR OPINED IT MIGHT BE A BIT DIFFICULT TO REITERATE A TITO INTEREST IN THE CASE SINCE THIS HAD ALR ADY BEEN DONE ONCE TO NO APPARENT EFFECT. GRUBOR SAID HE WOULD, HOWEVER, FOLLOW IT UP AND LET EMBASSY KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER ANY FURTH Z REPRESENTATION POSSIBLE.

7. EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW MUCH OF ABOVE INFOR*ATION WAS FED BACK TO THE ELDER BATES. GRUBOR SAID HE WOULD INFORM YUGOSLAV UN MISSION OF CONTINUED INTEREST THIS CASE, AND THEY MIGHT BE IN TOUCH WITH BATES.
JOH*SON

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